IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (canceled).

2. (new): A database processing method for performing definition and operation of external file reference type data which references data stored on an outside of a database, comprising the steps of:

at a time of inserting external file reference type data, receiving position information indicative of a storage location of an external file and watch information for watching the external file, and storing both said position and watch information in said database; and

requesting a watch of the external file indicated by said position information according to said watch information.

3. (new): A database processing method for performing definition and operation of external file reference type data which references data stored on an outside of a database, comprising the steps of:

at a time of searching external file reference type data, receiving a specification as to which one of column data and a content of an external file is to be fetched;

if the column data is specified, receiving position information indicative of a storage location of the external file and watch information for watching the external file as a search result; and

if the content of the external file is specified, obtaining data stored in the location indicated by the position information, and receiving the data thus obtained as a search result.

4.   (new): A database processing method for performing definition and operation of external file reference type data which references data stored on an outside of a database, comprising the steps of:

at a time of updating external file reference type data, receiving update data and a specification as to which one of column data and a content of an external file is to be updated;

if the column data is specified, sending a termination notice of terminating a watch of the external file according to watch information for watching data to be updated;

re-writing position information indicative of a storage location of the external file and watch information for watching the external file, both the information having been received regarding the data to be updated as update data; and

requesting a watch of the external file according to the watch information thus re-written; and

if the content of the external file is specified, rewriting data stored in a location indicated by the position information with the update data thus received.

5. (new): A database processing method for performing definition and operation of external file reference type data which references data stored on an outside of a database, comprising the steps of:

at a time of deleting external file reference type data, receiving a specification as to whether a content of an external file is to be deleted;

sending a termination notice of terminating a watch of the external file according to watch information of data to be deleted;

deleting the data to be deleted; and

if the content of the external file is specified, deleting data stored in a location indicated by position information.

6. (new): A database processing method for performing definition and operation of external file reference type data which references data stored on an outside of a database, comprising the steps of:

receiving a watch request for a watch of an external file, watching the external file thus requested, and, if the external file has been updated or deleted, sending an update note indicating update or deletion of the external file to a watch requester, and

if a termination notice of terminating a watch of the external file is received, terminating the watch of the external file indicated by the termination notice.

7.   (new): The database processing method according to claim 6, wherein said step of sending the update notice to the watch requester includes a step of watching file processing performed at a location in which the external file is stored, and sending to the watch requester the update notice indicating update or deletion of the external file.